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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/757,778	01/09/2001	Jun Koyama	07977/108002/US3190D1	8473

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06/19/2002

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EXAMINER

DUONG, TAI V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/757,778

Applicant(s)
KOYAMA ET AL.

Examiner
TAI DUONG

Art Unit
2871



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 8, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 10-15, 23, 24, and 31-43 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 28-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 5, 8, 16, 17, 20, and 25-27 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/770,785.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2871

The terminal disclaimer filed on 3/8/2002 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of Patent Number 6,246,454 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 22 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Koyama'698 (US 5,936,698).

Note in Fig. 7 the pattern 704 being provided adjacent to a side edge of a substrate and provided in a same layer as the bus (gate) line (col. 5, lines 1-26; col. 7, lines 21-32; col. 10, lines 1-5). It is noted that it is well known in the art that "formed at the same time" implies "formed of the same material", as evidenced by Koyama (col. 8, lines 64-67).

Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2871

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakase et al (US 5,760,855) in view of Koyama'698.

The only difference between the device/method of Nakase's Figs. 12, 14 and 16 and those of the instant claims is the pattern 30' or short ring 30 comprising a same material as the bus (gate) line. However, Koyama discloses that it was known to form a short ring comprising a same material as the bus (gate) line (see discussions in the above 102 rejection). Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to form a short ring comprising a same material as the bus (gate) line in the device/method of Nakase et al for simplifying the fabrication process, as compared with the case wherein the short ring is made of a material different from that of the gate line.

Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

Claims 2, 10-15, 23, 24 and 31-43 are allowed.

Claims 4, 5, 8, 16, 17, 20 and 25-27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Claims 2, 4, 5, 8 10-17, 20, 23-27 and 31-43 are allowable over the prior art because none of the prior art of record discloses or suggests a device/method having the combination of claim 1, 3 or 22 and one of the following features : “a sealant material provided over said substrate and provided over a region located between said bus line and said pattern”, “ a control circuit for controlling said driver circuit wherein said control circuit is disposed at a control circuit accommodation portion of said substrate, said control circuit accommodation portion being thinner than other portions of said substrate”, “a control circuit for controlling said driver circuit wherein said control circuit is provided over said substrate and adjacent to an opposite side edge of said substrate to said pattern”, “a control circuit for controlling said driver circuit wherein said control circuit is provided in said sealant material”, “forming a sealant material over said substrate after said cutting step”, “ bonding said TFT substrate and a counter substrate together (after the step of cutting said bus line from said short ring), and cutting said TFT substrate and said counter substrate along a common plane “.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Tai Duong at telephone number 703 308-4873.

TD
TVD

6/14/02


TOANTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER